**Clarifications to Quaries made by Tax Payers**

1827. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Relation Officers of Central Board of Direct Taxes and Central Board of Excise and Customs are supposed to give the clarifications on any quary made by the tax payers;

(b) if so, whether there is any time limit within which the clarification must be given; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to introduce such a system so that the tax payer can be properly guided and realisation of total taxes can be improved further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) There is no Public Relation Officer in the Central Boards of Excise and Customs or Central Board of Direct Taxes.

However, Public Relation Officers are posted in most of the Income Tax offices and their primary responsibility is to provide assistance to assist the tax payers in filing their tax returns, payment of taxes and complying with other tax laws. The quaries made by the tax payers relating to these matters are generally answered by them on the spot. There are units/cells in the Central Excise & Customs collectorates also which give clarifications on any query made by the tax-payers mostly on the spot or after having the matter examined wherever necessary.

**Functioning of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited**

1828. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any authentic study to be made by the Reserve Bank of India or any other agency with regard to the various activities of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited;

(b) whether any comparative study has been made with regard to the various investment schemes of the Company offered to the public *vis-a-vis* similar schemes offered by other Government institutions;

(c) if so, whether Government are satisfied with the Company's performance;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are having a fresh look on the question of nationalisation/take over of this Company; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that the RBI itself has in its inspection report of the Company for the year 1989-90 made some remarks about the functioning of the Company and if so, what are these remarks and what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार में घाटा**

1829. **श्री राम जेठ मलानी :**
**सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :**

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 सितम्बर, 1991 के "हिन्दू" में "दि ट्रेड डेफिसिट एंनिग्मा" शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार घाटे के संबध में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा प्रकाशित आंकड़ों में अंतर है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1988–89, 1989–90 और 1990–91 के दौरान भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और केन्द्रीय सरकार के आंकड़ों में क्या अंतर था ; और

(घ) उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर)** : (क) से (ग) जी, हां। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक और वाणिज्यिक आसूचना और सांख्यिकी महानिदेशालय, भारत सरकार, द्वारा प्रकाशित व्यापार घाटे से संबंधित आंकड़ों में भिन्नता है। व्यापार घाटे के अनुमान निम्नलिखित हैं :—

(करोड़ रुपए)

| | भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक अनुमान | वा०आ० सा०म० अनुमान |
|---|---|---|
| 1988–89 | 13556 | 8003 |
| 1989–90 | 12939 | 7735 |
| 1990–91 | 15142 | 10644 |

(घ) दोनों स्रोतों के आंकड़ों के बीच की भिन्नता मुख्यत: क्षत मुल्यांकन तथा समय संबंधी घटकों के कारण है। निर्यात के बारे में भिन्नता निम्नलिखित कारणों से है : (क) वा०आ सा0म० के आंकड़ों में पार्सल डाक द्वारा किये गए निर्यातों को शामिल न किया जाना, (ख) अपनाई गई मूल्यांकन संबंधी पद्धतियों में अंतर तथा (ग) आंकड़ों के अलग अलग स्रोत। आयातों क संदर्भ में भिन्नता निम्नलिखित कारणों से हैं : (क) कुछ आयातों के लिए सीमाशुल्क स्वीकृति की आवश्यकता नहीं होती तथा ये वा०आ०सां म० के आंकड़ों में परिलक्षित नहीं होते, (ख) अदायगियों में समय गुंजाइश (लीड टाइम) तथा (ग) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा अपनाई जाने वाली विनिमय दरों में अंतर के कारण, क्योंकि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक महीने के आधार पर औसत विनिमय दर का प्रयोग करता है जब कि वा०आ०सां०म० वाणिज्य मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिसूचित दरों, जिन्हें तीन महीनों में केवल एक बार संशोधित किया जाता है, का प्रयोग करता है।

**World Bank Recommendations on Rural Banking System**

1830. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the World Bank for consolidating the rural banking system in India were examined by Government; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Suggestions from World Bank are examined from time-to-time Consistant with our own priorities Government initiated the Service Area Approach with effect from April, 1989 to consolidate and strengthen the rural credit system. This approach has been adopted for improving the quality of rural credit, ensuring comprehensive credit planning, close monitoring of the end use of funds. This will also ensure better management, efficient use of credit, increasingly targeted to weaker groups.

**Rise in Foreign Exchange Reserves**

1831. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's exports have fallen by eight percent during the first five months (April—August) 1991 as compared to the same period during the last year;

(b) whether there has been a sharp prise in foreign exchange reserves in recent months;

(c) if so, the present level of foreign exchange reserves and factors contributing to this rise;

(d) whether Government propose to libreralise imports in view of this improvement; and